

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB
BULLETIN

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NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting will be held in the Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum, on Thursday, Nov. 22nd, at 7.45 p.m.

(Note - the FOURTH Thursday, this time !)

SPEAKER

Mr. K. Felton, from the Forestry Department.

SUBJECT

Eucalypts, and other native trees....

NEXT OUTING

Bus Outing to Tasman Peninsular area.

Date - Saturday, November 24th.

Meet - opp. Prince Theatre.

Time - to LEAVE at 9.30 a.m.

Cost - Adults \$2.50, Junior Members, no charge.

(A very few seats are available - see Miss F.E. Warren at the meeting)

Leader - Mr. K. Felton.

This Outing will be the last function for 1973.

LIBRARY

Members are asked to return all library books on or by the meeting on 22nd.

FIRST MEETING for 1974 will be February 21st; the Annual Meeting will be on March 21st - and Easter Day falls on April 14th.

CONSERVATION IN THE GARDEN

A page of suggestions has been received from Mr. Vincent Serventy. In particular, it gives information on pesticides - types; safety rules; non-poisonous materials; other methods of pest control - so that our wildlife do not suffer.

Look for this leaflet on the table at the meeting.

October Outings

Sunday, October 21st.

As the weather was so bad on Saturday, the outing to Ellendale was put off till the next Sunday. However, Fourteen intrepid and hopeful Field Nats turned up at the appointed hour and it was decided to go to Risdon Brook Dam. This was a good move, and we walked along the ridge of the hill just behind the new shelter sheds, till we reached the big sandstone quarry from which they got the blocks of stone for the sheds. Lunch was had here in a sheltered, sunny spot near a creek. While lunching we could watch a pardalote coming in and out of its 'nest' - the entrance was through an overhanging plant at the top of the cliff.

There were only one or two fine showers during the day - not enough to cause us discomfort - and we were thrilled to find Glossodia majors of all colours from white to deep mauve. Several Tigers, many Pink Fingers and buds of Thelymitras were seen. Peter Fielding and Micheal Grant did some intensive birdwatching and produced a list of 23 birds including the nests of both Spotted and Yellow-tipped pardalotes. Here's the list:-

Spur-wing Plover; Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo; Green Rosella; Kookaburra; Welcome Swallow; Tree Martin; Grey Fantail; Scarlet Robin; Flame Robin; Dusky Robin; Yellow-tailed Thornbill; Brown Scrub Wren; Blue Wren; Dusky Wood-Swallow; Spotted Pardalote; Yellow tipped Pardalote; Silvereye; Black-headed Honeyeater; Pipit; Raven; Starling.

...and the flora:-

Musk, (Olearea argaphylla) in bud; Native Vi~~net~~^{et}, (Viola hederacea); Blue Daisy (Brachycome sp.); Wax-lip orchid, (Glossodia major); Pink Fingers, (Caladenia carneae); small Thelymitra in bud; Olearea viscosa in bud; Eucalyptus sp. in flower; Native Indigo, (Indigofera australis); Tiger Orchid, (Diuris sulphurea); Yellow Lily, (Bulbina bulbosa); Dwarf heath, (Lissanthe strigosa); Leucopogon virgatus; Leucopogon collinus; Tetrapetra glandulosa; Pultenaea floribunda; Goodenia lanata; Large "Yellow Button" (Composite); and some necklace fern.

Sunday, October 28th.

Owing to a healthy "Grapevine", Sixteen people visited Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Brownell at Ellendale. We arrived about 12 o'clock and after a 'cuppa', went for a short walk into one area, getting back to the house for a late lunch. After this we went across the paddocks, and through the bush to the Jones River. The bush was still rather wet underfoot but various people were lent gumboots which were a great help! Mrs. Brownell led us down the valley to their boundary by the river, and Mr. Brownell made sure we all detoured in the right places to miss the worst of the mud.

On the way we were interested to find in flower the Native Currant (*Coprosma quadrifida*) which has its male and female flowers on different bushes! (Such tiny flowers too!)

On returning to the house we gave back the useful gumboots, and had a parting cuppa before taking to the road once more.

Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Brownell for a very happy and interesting day.

Newspaper Information.

Sargassum multicum - a fast-growing seaweed which 20 years ago was native to Japanese waters, has now been found near the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth Harbour. At present, volunteers are plucking it up by hand. If it gets a hold biologists are afraid it will lead to snagging of propellers, foul fishing lines and nets, block outfall pipes, and choke other seaweeds.

... DDT threatens to interfere with the rate of reproduction of the KOOKABURRA. In the bird's pattern of family life, 3 or 4 will live together in one home territory but only one pair will breed. If the male dies, another male from that group will mate with the resident female. But if the female, through the effect of the DDT, lays soft shelled eggs, she will go on doing so, losing the chicks, and no other females of the group take her place.

More research is needed into biological or non-toxic control of pests.

Around the Clubs

Nats News, Devonport.

Contains the first part of an article on a visit to Albatross Island for Bird-banding by two members of R.A.O.U. and a Devonport Field Nat. in January.

The day after the Federation meeting, there was an Outing to Lefroy. They had 38 adults and 8 youngsters and included four from Burnie and 2 from Launceston.

Instead of their usual October Outing, members who wished to, could go to the Plant Identification Seminar being held at Deloraine by Professor Jackson. There was a Slide evening on the Friday, and on Saturday there was an outing to Pine Lake.

North-Eastern Naturalists have had a number of other Naturalist visitors to their area.

Our Field Naturalist friends in the North of the State are to be commended on the way they work in with each other and visit each other's areas. This helps to prevent each Club from being an isolated group and must help to foster enthusiasm by contact with other enthusiastic Field Nats, to say nothing of the help they can be to each other in the matter of identification.

There are some very interesting Nature Notes in "The Orchid" (Peterborough Club - Ontario).

They arranged a Canoe Trip - easy paddle, about 5-7 miles, including a marsh with Osprey, Heron, and a wide variety of water plants.

They keep a list of 'wolf' sightings. Wolves are a nuisance to farmers, but interesting to Naturalists! ... and there are some personal diary extracts which show close observations of bird and animal life.

Fossils.

At the British Natural History Museum, London, scientists are slowly dissolving chunks of limestone to reveal some of Australia's rich fossil secrets. These are fish fossils taken from the remote Go Go cattle station at Fitzroy Trough about 250 miles south of Derby, W.A. material

Australian scientists, too, are working on from the same area.

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